

HEALTH
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HELMSLEY

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF
HELMSLEY

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1950.

To the Helmsley Rural District Council.

My Lord and Members of the Council,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the District for the year ending December 31st, 1950.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of Helmsley Rural District	...	67,703	acres
Resident Population in 1950		5,334	
Dwellings structurally separate		1,529	
Council Houses in occupation		180	
Rateable Value (full)		£18,823	
Penny Rate (sum represented)		£78	
Parishes in Area		27	

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Food and clothing restrictions remain the same as in the year 1949. There is still complaint throughout the area by Housewives and Heads of Families of the severity of the restrictions upon food and practically all domestic necessities. Farm work was carried on with fair regularity and crops were of good quality and secured in good order. But the scarcity of good nourishing food is beginning to be reflected in the Public Health. Farmers complain of the insufficiency of petrol in the work of the farm and in transport. School children, who get a milk ration and a hot dinner in the middle of the day, show a good standard of health and are possibly better off than the rest of the community in that respect.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—Total 75.

	Male	Female
Legitimate	35	37
Illegitimate	1	2
Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population 14.05.		
Still Births Total 1		
Legitimate	1	0
Illegitimate	0	0
Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births 13.1.		

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age Total 1

				Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0

Deaths—All Causes and Ages—74

Male	Female
50	24

Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population 13.6

SECTION B.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulances serving the District have worked well during the year. They were available at short notice day and night, and no delay was noted in the conveyance of patients to Hospital or Nursing Home. Infectious Disease was dealt with by ambulances from the Fever Hospitals, and they were invariably prompt in action, and there was no difficulty in taking up calls.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

As always, the work is carried out by the District Nurses, who have given every satisfaction. They are all Registered Midwives; their services are of a high standard and very much valued by the Public.

SECTION C.

Sanitation in the District continues to improve. The Sewage Disposal at Sproxton is now in a satisfactory condition and sewage is deposited at a distance from that village on falling ground. There is good reason to believe that the new scheme is likely to be at last laid down and a beginning made of the work. In all new houses built by the Council water closets and lavatories are provided and are working efficiently. Nuisances are dealt with as they arise, and the sanitation of the whole District is gradually undergoing sound progress. By the end of 1951 it is believed that the sanitary conditions will be satisfactory in every respect.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Building has been going on throughout the year when weather conditions permitted. Details are supplied by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in his Report. The new houses, built and nearing completion, in most instances, up to December 31st were:—24 houses completed and almost all ready for occupation. In addition there were in Ampleforth 12, in Gilling 4, in Harome 2, in Beadlam 1, making a total of 19 extra new houses.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk is still rationed, and the supply is controlled as before. Nursing mothers and children are given priority throughout the Area. The supply is of good quality. Pasteurisation is more favoured by farmers and milk-sellers, and plants for the purpose are increasing in number. No complaints have been registered on account of bad or dirty milk. In the great majority of cases milk is now distributed in sterilised bottles. All the milk used in the schools for school children is now treated in this manner.

NUTRITION.

The restrictions have not been altered in the supply and distribution of food. The quantity is extremely meagre; but is sufficient to maintain health. I have not been able to note any deterioration in the Public Health due to lack of food or to food of an inferior quality.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The system of centralised slaughtering and the present distribution of Meat, as carried out by the Government, is extremely unpopular, and butcher-meat has been supplemented by tinned food in most families. This is by no means an ideal condition, but I have not found that there has been any evil consequence. In some instances, where the consumption of meat was excessive, there can be no question that our restricted and plain diet has been of benefit to health.

WATER SUPPLY.

This continues to be quite satisfactory. In most cases water is piped, and there are now few stand pipes. All the new houses built by the Council are, with few exceptions, supplied from pipes within the houses. Farms and outlying houses get water from springs, and it is conserved in tanks and then piped to the houses or to stand-pipes in the villages. There were few complaints of coloured water from the village of Harome.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

				Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Measles	...	...	...	105	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	7	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	4	4	0
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	6	6	0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE AREA.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiration	1	0
Tuberculosis, Other	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	3	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	3
Leukaemia	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	7	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	4	0
Hypertension—Heart Disease	0	1
Other Heart Disease	8	7
Other Circulatory Disease	2	0
Pneumonia	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	6	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	0
Suicide	1	0
Myocardial Degeneration—Old Age	2	0
	—	—
Total	50	24

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

All rivers and streams were regularly inspected and remained free from pollution. Camps in the neighbourhood of streams were visited during the summer months, and no cause for complaint was found.

SCHOOLS.

The schools were regularly visited and inspected and found in good order. Measles and Whooping Cough became prevalent during the early part of the year. There was about 40 per cent. of the children absent from the C. of E. School in Ampleforth in January on account of a mild epidemic of Influenza. But the children kept returning after a very short illness, and it was not considered necessary to close the school. The other school in the village had a fair attendance. In Cold Kirby there was a poor attendance for a few days in the early part of the year—due to the severe weather. Harome C. of E. school was closed from January 8th to the 15th on account of Measles and Influenza.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART III, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Twenty Obstetric Cases went into Hospital for their confinement, and 12 Male and 8 Female live babies were born. These cases were removed from their Homes chiefly on account of the difficulty of getting domestic assistance during the going-in period. These were in addition to the 75 midwifery cases attended by the doctors and nurses in the District. Ante-natal examination and treatment was given in all cases by the doctors and midwives. All the children were vaccinated and immunised against Diphtheria.

A Clinic for children was held regularly by the Helmsley Medical Staff and the Nurses, and a record kept of the weight and condition of the babies. The mothers were given instruction and advice on these occasions. The Clinics were invariably well attended.

The Public Health of the Helmsley District was maintained at a satisfactory level throughout the year of 1950. The outbreak of Poliomyelitis was prevented from spreading throughout the Area. There were only one or two cases outside the villages. Most of them became convalescent, but the effects of the illness still remain in some instances. None of our patients died from the disease. On their return from Hospital several children were removed to Kirbymoorside Orthopaedic Hospital for treatment.

CONCLUSION.

I have much pleasure in recording my thanks to your Council and its officers for assistance and courtesy, and to my Medical Colleagues for consideration and information at all times in carrying out my duties.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER C. BLAIR, M.D.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

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STAFF.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer:

F. W. Stoney, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

W. C. Ranson, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk—Miss E. M. Dixon.

Staff for Refuse Collection, Housing Repairs and General Duties:

G. Bean (Foreman), A. Ware (Mason), E. W. Dunning,

J. Colley and J. B. Handley.

Sewage Disposal Plant Attendants:

B. Baker and G. Garbutt.

Water Bailiffs:

A. E. Anderson, W. A. Beecroft and E. Beecroft.

Rodent Operator—M. O. Wilson.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

For the Year ending 31st December, 1950.

Council Offices,

Helmsley, York.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Helmsley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor's Department of your Council for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The total number of visits of inspection made throughout the year for all purposes was 3,254 and is summarised as follows:—

GENERAL SANITATION—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	256
Complaints Investigated	...	...	...	...	105
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	63
Factories	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	9
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	1,328
Schools	...	...	...	...	13
					—
					1,781

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

Refuse Collection	...	...	...	55
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	27
Salvage	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	49

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WATER SUPPLIES—

Piethorne	...	...	...	58
Ampleforth	...	...	...	13
Helmsley	...	...	...	94
Gilling East	...	...	...	7
Cawton	...	...	...	8
Lousy Lane	...	...	...	3
Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	9
Newton East and Leysthorpe	...	...	...	3
Old Byland and Wass	...	...	...	15
Stonegrave and Nunnington	...	...	...	9
Sproxton	...	...	...	35
Scawton and Cold Kirby	...	...	...	31
R.A.F., Wombledon	...	...	...	19

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SEWAGE WORKS—

Helmsley	...	...	...	11
Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	7
Ampleforth	...	...	...	9
Gilling East	...	...	...	21
Harome, Beadlam, etc.	...	...	...	35
Sproxton	...	...	...	9

92

HOUSING—

No. of Houses inspected under P.H. and Housing Acts	...	...	...	105
No. of visits necessary to above Houses	...	...	...	128
No. of visits to Squatters	...	...	...	57
No. of visits to Council Houses	...	...	...	242
No. of visits to applicants for Council Houses	...	...	...	64

596

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

Visits re Disinfection	...	...	...	7
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7

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION—

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	5
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	36
Visits to Food Premises	...	...	32
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	21
Market Inspections	...	...	50
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	25
			169

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL—

Visits re application for licences	...	14
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BUILDING BYELAWS—

No. of visits re building work in progress	97
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PETROLEUM SPIRIT REGULATIONS—

Visits to establishments re storage	...	3
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Total		3,254
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HOUSING.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

This work has continued during the year when 92 houses were examined in detail and plans prepared in each case.

The result of the survey to date is as follows:—

	Dealt with in 1950	Previously dealt with	Total
1. Satisfactory in all respects	13	151	164
2. Minor defects	27	225	252
3. Major repairs or structural alterations	39	378	417
4. Suitable for reconditioning	1	48	49
5. Unfit	13	121	134
92		875	967

The survey has now been completed in the major part of the area.

As the houses noted for reconditioning are already in other categories, their number is not included in the main totals.

On the basis of 1,201 houses in the area which come within the range of the present survey, 234 houses remain to be examined, 967 having been dealt with. The proportion of unfit houses continues to stay at about 14% of the total surveyed, which again points to a total figure on completion of the survey of approximately 180 houses to be considered unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost.

Since the coming into force of the Housing Act, 1949, three applications for grant aid to private owners of property were submitted to the Ministry of Health. One application was successful, one was rejected, and the third is still the subject of negotiation.

After a year's experience of the working of this Act, the results have been most disappointing, as it was hoped that considerably more properties would be dealt with with a resulting improvement in the housing standards of the district.

A comprehensive report on the findings of the Rural Housing Survey to date, together with recommendations for a future housing programme, was drawn up and submitted to the Ministry of Health for their observations. At the time of writing the matter rests at that stage.

COUNCIL HOUSE PROGRAMME.

Two stone three-bedroom type houses were provided at Harome and two Airey type houses at Beadlam during the year.

At the end of the year the Council owned 172 houses and had under construction a further 40. Schemes in hand envisage the erection of another 48 houses. At the end of the year the list of applicants for Council houses, without separate homes, numbered 49. The houses under construction, plus those envisaged for erection in the coming year, should cope with this situation. The Council would then be free to direct their activities towards dealing with 180 houses mentioned in the section of the report dealing with the Rural Housing Survey. Several of the tenants of this class of property are already applicants for Council houses.

The rising costs of house building are being reflected in the high rentals it is now necessary to charge for new houses, and it is hoped; that the Council may soon be able to provide more economical housing accommodation by the purchase and reconditioning of suitable existing properties.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year:—

Site	Type	Completed	Constructing	Proposed	Existing	Total
Helmsley	Brick & Stone	—	24	14	68	106
Harome	Airey, Brick and Stone	2	—	—	16	18
Pockley	Stone	—	4	—	2	6
Beadlam	Airey & Brick	2	—	10	33	45

Site	Type	Completed	Constructing	Pro- posed	Exist- ing	Total
Old Byland	Stone	—	—	—	2	2
Ampleforth	Brick	—	12	8	29	49
Coulton	Brick	—	—	—	3	3
Cawton	Stone	—	—	—	1	1
Gilling	Stone	—	—	4	4	8
Sproxton	Stone	—	—	—	6	6
Oswaldkirk	Stone	—	—	4	4	8
Stonegrave	Stone	—	—	6	—	6
Newton East		—	—	2	—	2
		4	40	48	168	260

During the same period the following houses were completed and occupied under private enterprise:—

Site	Type	Under Construction	No. Completed	Total
Oswaldkirk	Stone	—	1	1
Ampleforth	Brick	—	2	2
Harome	Stone	1	1	2
Gilling	Stone	2	—	2
Helmsley	Stone	3	—	3
		6	4	10

The repair and maintenance of all Council property is the responsibility of this Department and is carried out, where practicable by direct labour. The mason employed by the Council has given complete satisfaction in his work, but difficulty has occasionally arisen in providing him with the necessary labourer, who has to be withdrawn from other work.

Defects to Council Houses remedied during the year:—

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	11
Defective eaves, gutters and down spouts, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
Paths repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Coppers renewed	...	...	...	...	9
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	7
Water services repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Ball taps repaired	...	...	...	...	38

11.

Boilers renewed or repaired	...	...	2
Electrical repairs	...	...	16
Plaster renewed	...	...	30
Ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	36
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	9
			229

The mason is also engaged on maintenance works on the water and sewerage schemes owned by the Council.

TEMPORARY HOUSING.

The Military Camp at Ampleforth continues to be administered by the Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health, and an average of 14 family units of accommodation have been occupied. All these structures are now in a derelict condition and satisfactory repair is impossible, and it is pleasing to note that early in 1951 these tenants will be rehoused in Council houses, thus enabling the huts to be demolished and the site to be cleared.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Seventeen samples of milk were taken from producer retailers in the district and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, three were completely satisfactory, seven gave fair and seven gave poor results. The poor results were notified to the Milk Production Officer of the area for his information.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

All meat supplies for this area are drawn from the Ministry of Food Distributing Centre at Easingwold, and the supply on the whole has been satisfactory.

Regular visits have been paid to butchers' establishments in the district, when the standard of handling and storage of meat was found to be satisfactory.

During the year 18lbs. of tinned corned beef was condemned.

SHOPS, STALLS AND VEHICLES.

Market stalls dealing with fish and vegetables and closed vehicles used for the transport of meat were kept under regular supervision and conditions were reasonably satisfactory. The Council have under consideration the adoption of food handling byelaws, and it is hoped these will be in force early in the coming year. The adoption of these byelaws will help considerably in the control of this class of business.

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

There are three shops and one motor vehicle carrying on the trade of fish-frying in the area and seven hotels and restaurants. Conditions generally were good, and premises were regularly inspected.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT).

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. Four shops are registered for the sale of ice-cream. All deal in pre-packed varieties of the commodity.

FOOD POISONING.

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the area during the year.

SHELL FISH REGULATIONS.

No action has been taken during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

Four bakehouses in use in the area have been regularly visited and satisfactory conditions were found therein.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no designated Offensive Trades in the area.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Sixteen visits were made to Factories and Workshops in the area, and there are no outworkers in the district. A cloth-mending factory was established in the area during this period, and action was taken to secure adequate means of escape in case of fire.

WATER SUPPLY.

The major portion of the population of this area derives its water from piped supplies, and most outlying farms and houses are served by individual supplies from small land springs.

At the present time the Rural Housing Survey has revealed 78 houses drawing a supply of water from standpipes. Every effort is made to secure a piped supply into these houses.

During the year new services were provided to nine new and existing houses, and in addition 11 services were extended or improved.

EXTENSION TO WATER MAIN.

The new housing estate at Carlton Lane, Helmsley, was opened up for development by the Council and private enterprise,

and as it was found that the Low Level supply to the town was not of sufficient pressure to feed this proposed estate, a new link main was laid connecting the High Level supply to the site. Approximately 2,500 yards of 4-in. Spun Iron water main, including 11 Fire Hydrants and 12 Sluice Valves were laid, at an estimated cost of £3,850. The scheme was carried out by Contract under the supervision of this Department.

ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of the water supplies by this authority, together with those owned jointly by this local authority and the Kirbymoorside Rural District Council, is the responsibility of my Department. During the period under review 89 visits were made to the joint schemes and 215 to others—a total of 304.

The following table sets out the particulars of the water supplies in the area of the Helmsley Rural District Council:—

Name of Supply	Owner	District Served	Nature of Supply
Piethorne ...	... Helmsley & Kirbymoorside Joint Water Committee	Harome, Beadlam, Wombleton, Pockley, Skiplam, & Nawton Towers	Springs with gravitation by Cast Iron Mains
Nunnington & Leysthorne .	do.	Nunnington, Leysthorne and Stonegrave	Springs with gravitation
Helmsley Town ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Helmsley Town	Springs with gravitation
Rievaulx ...	... Duncombe Park Estate	Rievaulx	Springs with gravitation
Carlton ...	... Duncombe Park Estate	Carlton	Springs with gravitation
Sproxton ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Sproxton	Hydraulic Rams
Ampleforth ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Ampleforth	Springs with gravitation
Byland with Wass ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Wass	Springs with gravitation
Old Byland ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Old Byland	Hydraulic Rams
Hawnby ...	... Mexborough Estate	Hawnby	Springs with gravitation
Oswaldkirk ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Oswaldkirk	Artesian Well
Cawton ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Cawton	Hydraulic Rams
Gilling East ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Gilling East	Springs with gravitation
Coulton ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Coulton	Hydraulic Rams
Scawton & Cold Kirby	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Scawton, Cold Kirby and Hambleton	Hydraulic Rams
Thorpe-le-Willows ...	... Helmsley R.D.C.	Thorpe-le-Willows	Springs with gravitation
Wombleton ...	... Helmsley R.D.C. for Ministry of Health	Harome	Boreholes

Generally speaking, adequate supplies on all schemes were maintained throughout the year, with the exception of Sproston where difficulties were again experienced. The emergency link main laid previously to meet this need was put into operation when necessary and proved very successful.

The difficulty of maintaining these supplies becomes greater owing to the increased demands of both domestic and agricultural consumers and shortages were experienced at Sproston, Ampleforth, Scawton and Cold Kirby, Cawton, Gilling East, Leysthorpe and Nunnington.

During the year, the acquisition by the Council of the Helmsley Town High and Low Level supplies and the Oswaldkirk supply was completed, the Council taking over on 1st October, 1950.

Owing to the increased maintenance work placed on the Department by the acquisition of the Helmsley supplies, the duties of the bailiffs were re-organised, one being given a full-time appointment. The Council employ three bailiffs who maintain constant supervision of all the supplies in the area.

Metering of supplies to non-domestic users, maintenance, repair and improvement work, together with the tapping of mains for new connections are carried out by the Department. The 10-cwt. van provided, has greatly facilitated the speedy execution of this work, and has been extremely useful in the maintenance work on Council housing estates.

The Regional scheme to supply water from Ness is now well advanced, and it is expected that the Board will be in a position to supply during the coming year. The scheme for the distribution of this water in the Southern part of the district has been prepared by the Council's consulting engineer and is now in the hands of the Ministry of Health.

This scheme when in operation should relieve shortages over a large part of the area.

Delivery of materials has already commenced, and it is hoped that a start will be made on the Piethorne Redistribution Scheme early next year.

QUALITY OF WATER SUPPLY.

All supplies are reasonably free from chemical contamination and none has a plumbo-solvent action.

The Oswaldkirk supply has a large iron content, but it is not practicable to take any action in the matter. The Helmsley Town and Piethorne schemes are provided with hyperchlorinators which have been operated when found necessary.

Nineteen samples of the various water supplies in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, when 16 proved satisfactory and three unsatisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of house refuse is undertaken in all Parishes of the Rural District, excluding remote farms; on a fortnightly basis by direct labour, and a Karrier C.K. 3-10 cubic yards capacity is employed for this purpose. An old Karrier Bantam vehicle of 7 cubic yards capacity is kept in reserve in case of emergency.

Approximately 2,000 tons of refuse have been dealt with during the year.

The increase in the number of houses to be served together with the additional amount of refuse to be dealt with is rendering it impossible for the present time-table to be maintained. For this reason it will be necessary to re-organize the scheme.

All refuse is disposed of by partially controlled tipping at the central tip in Helmsley. This tip, which has been on fire for a large number of years, is unsafe for vehicular traffic, and is also occupying practically the whole of the available site. The Council would be well advised to secure an alternative site for the disposal of refuse.

Every effort is made to maintain the tip in a sanitary condition, and steps are taken regularly to deal with the fly and rodent infestations.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

At the present time there are five sewage disposal works in the area, namely:—Helmsley, Oswaldkirk, Gilling East, Wombleton and Ampleforth. The ex-R.A.F. works at Wombleton have been acquired by the Joint Committee of the Helmsley and Kirbymoorside Rural District Councils. A scheme for the sewerage of Harome and Beadlam in the Helmsley R.D. area and Nawton and Wombleton in the Kirbymoorside Rural District area, together with the modernization of the existing works, has been prepared, and approved by the Ministry of Health. A modified version of this scheme, excluding Wombleton and part of Harome, is to commence early in the coming year.

The Helmsley works are hopelessly overloaded and out of date rendering it increasingly difficult to secure a satisfactory treatment. It is hoped that the scheme for the modernization of these works prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer will receive the early approval of the Ministry of Health.

On the whole the works at Oswaldkirk have given satisfaction during the year.

Difficulties have been experienced with the land used for irrigation purposes and steps will have to be taken for the provision of some other form of effluent disposal.

The Gilling East works have been well maintained. Here again it is hoped that the early approval of the Ministry of Health to the scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer will be obtained.

In the case of Ampleforth the approval of the Ministry of Health to the scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer has been obtained and a starting date in July given, when it is hoped the work will commence.

During the year a start was made by the Contractor on a scheme of sewers and sewage disposal works for Sproxton at an estimated cost of £3,500. The Contract is being supervised by this Department. With the completion of the present schemes, most of the thickly populated parts of the area will have adequate water and sewerage facilities which will enable the work of conversion to the water carriage system to proceed.

Owners of several of the individual properties in the area have provided small sewage disposal schemes which have been laid down to a good standard and should provide a thoroughly satisfactory effluent.

EXTENSION TO SEWER.

During the year approximately 1,200 yards of new sewer graduating from 18" spun concrete to 9" glazed stoneware, was laid from the new Carlton Lane housing estate to the existing sewer behind Station Road, Helmsley, at an estimated cost of £6,250.

Supervision of this contract was carried out by this Department.

All new drainage work is inspected and tested, and a considerable amount of work is carried out by the Department in the maintenance of open sewage ditches and the cleansing of septic tanks. Details are given below:—

Tanks cleansed	...	...	3
Choked drains cleared	...	...	25
Choked sewers cleared	...	...	3
Open sewers cleared	...	...	9

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During the year 12 privies were converted to the water

carriage system in various parishes of the district and 12 additional W.C.'s were provided.

SALVAGE.

Towards the end of the year the collection of waste paper and cardboard was again undertaken, but the response of the public initially was disappointing. All householders were circularized and a slight improvement in the quantity collected resulted from this.

RECHARGEABLE WORK.

Rechargeable work to the value of £41 17s. 8d. was carried out during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Since the last report, the Public Conveniences in Helmsley have been enlarged and modernized, and in consequence, are now in a position to cope with the additional summer traffic through the town.

SHOPS.

No statutory action has been necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been found necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public baths or pools in this area.

RODENT CONTROL.

In conjunction with the Kirbymoorside R.D.C. the Council appointed a Rodent Operator to serve the two districts in order to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Since his appointment disinfestation work to Council and privately-owned property has been carried out. The number of properties surveyed was 1,247; the number of treatments carried out was 81 and the presumptive kill 6,690.

Council-owned refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal works, and several open ditches, were successfully treated during the year in order to comply with the requirements of the Ministry under schemes adopted by the Council.

HOUSE AND BUILDING PLANS.

The administration of the Building Bye-laws in force in the Rural Area has necessitated a large amount of work and many visits of inspection.

During the year the following plans for new building work were approved by the Council:—

Helmsley	...	...	...	...	...	11
Hawnby	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bilsdale	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coulton	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rievaulx	...	...	...	...	...	2
Harome	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ampleforth	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gilling East	...	...	...	...	...	5
Oswaldkirk	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cawton	...	...	...	...	...	3
Snilesworth	...	...	...	...	...	2
Old Byland	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stonegrave	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scawton	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
						41

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

A considerable amount of work has been necessary during the year in the administration of the regulations governing the Control of Civil Building.

During that time 30 applications for Building Licences were received and investigated and many visits were paid during the building operations.

The Licences issued during the year were as follows:—

Helmsley R.D.C.	...	...	...	...	12
Ministry of Works	...	...	...	...	18

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the area have been visited regularly, and on the whole no cause for complaint has arisen. Minor matters have been successfully dealt with.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen, I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Council for the courtesy and assistance extended to me during the year.

I have also much pleasure in recording the co-operation of Mr. H. L. Bates, Clerk to the Council, Dr. A. C. Blair, Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. W. C. Ranson, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and the members of my Staff for their loyal support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. STONEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

